



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11
- Matthew 6:24
- Acts 17:29-31

TEN COMMANDMENTS:

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

- The Ten Commandments
- Evidently Clear

In our Bibles, “Thou shalt” and “Thou shalt not” can be found hundreds of times. Undoubtedly, Yahweh’s intention was to provide fresh revelation to Moses in the form of His finger-scripted stone tablets. And God was not just revealing His commands to be a cosmic kill-joy. They were meant to be a blessing!

It is well established and agreed that the Ten Commandments are the underpinning of western civilization. They are the bedrock for our cultural morality. However, as time passes since the revelation to Moses, and the further we get from its message, the greater the erosion of societal behaviors. Have we lost our ethical moorings?

The Church, unfortunately, has not been the guide rod and moral compass it was meant to be. A very prominent pastor recently published a book in which he writes, “The Ten

Commandments have no authority over you. None. To be clear, "Thou Shalt not obey the Ten Commandments." If this is the message well-known pastoral figures are preaching from their platforms, why should the unbelieving world have any desire to surrender their humanistic agendas? Why not just live life according to how things make you feel? If it feels good, do it; if it doesn't, don't. What a simple and self-satisfying way to live. And isn't this precisely what we are witnessing all around us today?

Because of its wish-washy doctrine, the western church is largely to blame for this phenomenon. As an institution, it has bowed to what people want to hear. The squeaky wheel gets the grease and the church has been all too accommodating to supply greasy grace to the loudest complaints! One of only two things can occur. Either the culture is shaped around God's Word, or God's Word is shaped around the culture. Trust me, no one complains when they get to do whatever they wish. It only gets noisy when people are taught to fit their lives into the narrow parameters of God's instructions.

As such, it is no accident that the world is behaving the way it is. It should be no surprise that morality is at an-all-time low. Why? Because when humans are left to determine what is right, the outcome is always the same! If it feels good, do it; if it doesn't, don't. What a simple and self-satisfying way to live.

As Christians, we should be asking everyone this question. “Ten commandments, who are they for?” You might not win the “most popular” title, or the “most likely to succeed” award, but you will leave a lasting imprint. No, it is not your job to convince or change anyone’s mind, but it is your duty to challenge their way of thinking.

We are now experiencing the ramifications of living in a pluralistic society, one in which Christians are encouraged, even forced, to keep their opinions to themselves. Moses was handed down stone tablets and told to openly proclaim the truth written upon them. But, it is the enemy’s desire that their powerful meaning stay sealed behind closed doors. Ultimately, who are the ten commandments for? They are for all of humanity, because in the end, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. And until that day comes, be sure that “teaching others to obey!” is part of your disciple-making agenda.

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have **no other gods before me**” Deuteronomy 5:6-7 ESV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24 ESV

Being then God's offspring, **we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone**, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The **times of ignorance God overlooked**, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:29-31 ESV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion completes the historical prologue of the Deuteronomy covenant document and begins a rehearsal of the stipulations. Part of that rehearsal is a repetition of the Ten Commandments and the famous first passage of the Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Deuteronomy 3

2. **Moses Forbidden to Enter the Land:** Moses reminds the people that he is not going to enter the land and how he pleaded with

Yahweh to let him cross over, but was not permitted because He was angry with Moses “on their account.” God told him to not speak on this matter again.

- (a) In chapter one Moses also blamed his exclusion from the promised land on the people. *“The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, ‘Even you shall not go in there.’”* (Deuteronomy 1:37) We know that it was actually Moses lack of faith that was the cause, as he struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it, as instructed by Yahweh. So, it is interesting that he chose to blame the people. Yes, it was the people who created the circumstance to which Moses had to respond, but it was still his response that brought the consequence.
 - (b) In chapter 4 he blames them again. *“Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan...”* Deuteronomy 4:21-22 NKJV
3. Moses can see the promised land from across the Jordan, but is is commanded to prepare Joshua to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 4

4. **Moses Commands Obedience:** Moses is adamant about Israel remembering and observing Yahweh’s commands (and teaching them to their children and grandchildren). He reminds them of their encounter at Horeb when God spoke to them the Ten

Commandments from the mountain and gave them the stone tablets. He reminds them that he taught them all Yahweh's commands and how they were to keep them when they crossed into the promised land, and how He annihilated the people who followed Baal Peor. Famously he records these words, *"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."* Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV

5. **Beware of Idolatry:** Moses reminds the people to flee from idolatry as they were delivered from an idolatrous nation (Egypt). And how Yahweh is a jealous God (a consuming fire), so worshiping other gods is especially offensive and will provoke Him to anger.
6. Moses calls heaven and earth as a witness against them and warns that they will soon utterly perish if they commit idolatry in the land, but then makes this dreadful prediction.
 - (a) Yahweh will scatter you among the nations for your disobedience and idolatry. (Note: scatter them out of the promised land they had NOT YET ENTERED!)
 - (b) And then he prophesies that they will repent, seek Yahweh, and obey, and that He would not destroy them, nor forget the covenant He made with their fathers.

7. Then Moses reminds them that, from creation forward, Yahweh has never done such great things for any other people on earth, as He has done for Israel, so they would know Him as the Almighty God!
 - (a) He separated them from all other nations
 - (b) He delivered them from mightier nations with His presence
 - (c) Out of heaven they heard His voice as to instruct them
 - (d) They should be radically obedient to Him and then it will “go well with them and with their children.”
8. Moses then reminds them of the cities of refuge east of the Jordan.
9. **Introduction to God’s Law:** at the end of chapter 4 we are reminded that God gave Israel the law after they came out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 5

10. **The Ten Commandments Reviewed:** All Ten Commandments written on stone are reviewed in detail in the first part of chapter 5 with this exclamation point. *“These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.” (Deuteronomy 5:22)*

11. **People are Afraid of God's Presence:** Moses reiterates how the people were so concerned about hearing the voice of God directly, as they might be consumed with His fire, that they ask Moses to serve as their go-between. *"For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?" (Deuteronomy 5:26)*
12. The people then asked that Moses go hear Yahweh's voice for them and anything he tells them Yahweh said, they would do. Yahweh told Moses that what the People are asking for is a good thing. Moses comes back with an offer from Yahweh and the people accept. Their "I do", at that moment, was the "I do" of Israel becoming Yahweh's bride.
13. Yahweh knows that they will not be a faithful bride. They are instructed to not turn to the left or the right (not to stray off the course of obeying Him). *"Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29)*

Deuteronomy 6

14. **The Greatest Commandment:** Then comes a very famous moment in the Torah. Certainly Judaism recognizes it as such. And so does Y'shua (You do know He was a Jew, don't you? 😊)

It's called the "Shema" which gets its name from the first word of Deuteronomy 6:4. [Hear, שְׁמָע (šə·ma'), meaning **to hear, listen to, obey**].

15. Verses 6:1-3 emphatically commands God's people and their children and grandchildren to keep all His statutes and His commandments.
16. Then these words appear in verse 6:4, which have become maybe the most important prayer in all of Judaism: *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*
 - (a) These words are to be in their hearts and they are to diligently teach them to their children, everywhere and at all times. They should be engrained in their minds and should cause them to take action because of them. They should cover the entrance of their homes as to govern all they do, forever.
 - (b) And thus it should not be a surprise that when our blessed Savior Y'shua Himself was asked which is the first (greatest) commandment, the exchange looked like this: *"Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him,*

***“Which is the first commandment of all?”** Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘**Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**’ This is the first commandment.” Mark 12:28-30 NKJV [Note: Matthew 22:34-38 has the same question and Y’shua uses these words “This is the **first** and **great** commandment.” Matthew does leave off the first part “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.”]*

17. **Caution Against Disobedience:** when you come into the land, beware lest you forget the God who delivered you from Egypt. You shall fear the LORD and not go after the gods of the peoples who are all around you.
18. When your children ask the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, the judgments and the commands, then you shall say:
 - (a) We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;
 - (b) the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household;
 - (c) He brought us out from there to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers;

(d) And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes that He might preserve us alive;

(e) ***“Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.” Deuteronomy 6:25***

19. **A Chosen People:** You will conquer nations greater and mightier than you.

(a) Make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them;

(b) Don’t intermarry, so they don’t influence you to worship their gods;

(c) Instead, destroy their altars, break down their sacred pillars, cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

20. *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”*
(Deuteronomy 7:6)

21. Yahweh chose you because He loves you and to keep the oath which He swore to your fathers.

22. Yahweh keeps His covenant and mercy for a thousand generations **with those who love Him and keep His commandments**; and He repays those who hate Him to their

face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. (*Deuteronomy 7:9-10*)

23. You can see the last two year's teaching on this portion here:

[Your Final Testimony](#) & [The Next Generation](#)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Who are they for?

A. 1st Commandment

- (1) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" Deuteronomy 5:6-7
- (2) Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Matthew 4:10 ESV
- (3) No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24 ESV
 - (a) This is probably one of the hardest commandments to not violate.
 - (b) Believers have God "someplace" in their lives, just not in the preeminent place He demands.

(c) Why does God have the need for a commandment that points out that you may not having any other gods before Him?

1. From the very beginning, there have been many counterfeit deities lobbying to be worshiped by humanity. Undoubtedly, Yahweh is hereby separating Himself from anything that has propped itself up as equal to Him. He is not in competition; He stands all alone in this position.
2. It is not uncommon for believers to have a convoluted view of who God is. One could assume that giving Yahweh His preeminent position would happen automatically. However, nothing could be further from the truth.
3. Continually, we find people who say things like, “I have a special relationship with God,” or “God and I have an arrangement,” or “the Man upstairs.”

B. 2nd Commandment

- (1) ‘You shall not ***make for yourself a carved image***, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of

the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Deuteronomy 5:8-10 ESV

(2) Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:29-31 ESV

- (a) In all other civilizations at that time, it was customary for people to make images and artifacts that would be turned into items for worship.
- (b) The Children of Israel who exited Egypt, were not immune to this phenomenon. They had come out of one the most idolatrous, idol-worshiping cultures of all time!
- (c) As point of fact, the 10 plagues, which Yahweh wrought on Egypt, were each an attack on a different Egyptian deity.
- (d) Why does God say, "I am a jealous God?"

1. God is jealous for His people in the same way a father is jealous for his children. A good father does not want his children being led astray by anything that has the ability of diluting his children's capacities or future growth and development.
2. By saying "I am a jealous God," Yahweh is implicitly stating His concern for the well being of His children. He is drawing the believer to a closer walk with Him.
3. This commandment is also very easy to violate. There are so many different artifacts we might gather that seem so insignificant.
4. We collect these things over time and when challenged, we won't rid ourselves of them because they've become materially significant to us.
5. This is modern day idolatry.

C. 3rd Commandment

- (1) "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Deuteronomy 5:11 ESV
- (2) "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'" Matthew 15:8-9
ESV

- (a) We can ascertain that the 3rd commandment forbids the believer to use the name of Yahweh in any way other than in reverence.
- (b) However, while it is true God's name is to be held in the highest regard and it is not to be trampled on, this commandment also implies that anytime we do something contradictory to our faith (what we claim we believe and worship), we are taking His name in vain. How so?
 - 1. Picture a married man or woman, going out dancing late at night, while professing to be married. You find them in a nightclub with someone other than their spouse. Would that not make you wonder about their commitment to the person they are married to?
 - a) Would that not contradict the covenant that person made to their significant other?
 - b) Would their behavior not nullify that which they proclaim, thereby taking their marriage in vain?
 - c) It is no different when worshiping the name of God. We can proclaim with our mouth an allegiance to Him, but then we do something completely contradictory. This places our character

in questions, thereby giving others the opportunity to mock our devotion to our Christian life.

- d) Also see: [Oh, What a World it Would Be, if...](#) to learn more about what it means to remove God's name from your promises and from your vocabulary altogether.

D. 4th Commandment

- (1) "Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you, six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember your were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 ESV

- (2) For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." And again in this passage he said, "They shall not

enter my rest.” Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. Hebrews 4:4-11 ESV

- (a) This commandment is the most debated commandment of all. It is the one in which most of Christendom today disagrees.
- (b) In the view of many, Sabbath has been changed from Saturday to Sunday. Sunday is also referred to by many as the Lord's Day.
- (c) Many objections and excuses have been raised as reasons to not observe the biblical Sabbath, such as:
 - 1. Jesus is our Sabbath
 - 2. Sabbath is only for Jews
 - 3. Our Sabbath can be “ANY” day we choose

4. Sabbath was abolished and done away with.
- (d) Undoubtedly, the objections raised by many in Christendom are simply born from tradition created by the Catholic Church because of its anti-semitic views.
1. In the Council of Laodicea in the 4th century the Catholic Church said, *“Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord’s Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be Judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ.”*
Council of Laodicea, canon 29
2. Catholic Converts Catechism, pg. 50, reads...
- a) Q. Which is the Sabbath day?
 - b) A. Saturday is the Sabbath day.
 - c) Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?
 - d) A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 336), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.
 - e) Q. By what authority did the Church substitute Sunday for Saturday?

- f) A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plenitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her.
- (e) Ultimately, where in the Bible did God change Sabbath from the 7th day to the 1st day of the week? The short answer is, nowhere!
1. “My covenant I will not break, ***nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips***” (Psalm 89:34).
 2. Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 24:15-21–
“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand). Then let those in Judea flee into the mountains. Let him on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house; nor let him in the field turn back to take his clothes. And woe to those who are with child, and to those who give suck in those days! But pray that your flight is not in the winter, nor on the sabbath day; for then shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 24:15-21
MKJV

(f) Question

1. Why does Y'Shua warn us regarding the abomination of desolation which is to happen towards the end of days, but then “pray that your flight is not in the winter, nor on **the Sabbath day**”?
2. Would that make any sense if there was any ambiguity about which day was the Sabbath?

E. 5th Commandment

- (1) “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. Deuteronomy 5:16 ESV
- (2) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Ephesians 6:1-3 ESV
 - (a) When reading this commandment, what is the first thought to cross your mind?
 1. I can't honor my parents because...
 2. I can honor my mother, but my father, no way ! (Or vice versa?)

- (b) In truth, this is a very personal requirement that we all must face. Yahweh is not hereby opening up dialogue to present a case for why we cannot obey this command.
- (c) If we assess God's intention correctly, this has more to do with our capacity to get rid of anger and bitterness than anything else.
- (d) How many people grow up holding grudges against their parents, because of situations and circumstances we ourselves would have dealt with in a similar fashion or maybe worse?
 - 1. Children, ***obey your parents*** in the Lord, for this is right. Ephesians 6:1 ESV
 - 2. Children, ***obey your parents*** in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Colossians 3:10 ESV
 - 3. For men will be self-lovers, money-lovers, boasters, proud, blasphemers, ***disobedient to parents***, unthankful, unholy... 2 Timothy 3:2 ESV

F. 6th Commandment

- (1) "You shall not murder." Deuteronomy 5:17 ESV
- (2) For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in

this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 13:9 ESV

(a) We are likely to wipe the sweat off our brow on this one as soon as we read it, but not so fast.

1. Y'shua raised the bar just a little when He said– "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '**You shall not murder;** and **whoever murders will be liable to judgment.**' **But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.** Matthew 5:21-22 ESV

(b) At the root of character assassination are, anger, bitterness, wrath, and evil speaking, all the emotions Yahweh exhorts His children to put away, through the Apostle Paul. (Ephesians 4:31)

1. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "**Do not murder.**" But if you do not commit adultery, yet if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law. James 2:11 ESV
2. ...being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; being full

of envy, **murder**, quarrels, deceit, evil habits,
becoming whisperers, Romans 1:29 ESV

G. 7th Commandment

- (1) ““And you shall not commit adultery. Deuteronomy 5:18
ESV
- (2) And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and
marries another commits adultery against her, and if she
divorces her husband and marries another, she commits
adultery.” Mark 10:11-12 ESV
- (3) Yeshua raised the bar on this one as well–You have heard
that it was said...
 - (a) ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that
everyone ***who looks at a woman with lustful intent has
already committed adultery with her in his heart.***
Matthew 5:27-28 ESV
- (4) You might think to yourself, “Well, I’m not married so I’m
really not committing adultery.” Think again! If you are
lusting after someone who is not your spouse, you are
lusting after someone who is, or will be, someone else’s
spouse.
 - (a) “Turn my eyes from looking at ***worthless things*** and
revive me in your way” Psalm 119:37 NKJV

- (b) “I have ***made a covenant*** with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman” Job 31:1 NKJV

H. 8th Commandment

- (1) ““And you shall not steal. Deuteronomy 5:19 ESV
- (2) You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” Mark 10:19-20 ESV
- (3) Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Ephesians 4:28 ESV
 - (a) Not a thief?
 1. Have you taken proper inventory of that fact? Theft comes in many different ways. With the advent of the internet, taking intellectual property as a download that was should have been paid for, but someone figured out a way to bootleg it, you downloaded it and didn’t think anything of it?
 2. How about that lead at work that was supposed to go to someone else, but you were at the “right place and

at the right time,” Instead of passing it on, you positioned yourself to make the sale.

- a) Therefore the one teaching another, do you not teach yourself? The one preaching ***not to steal, do you steal?*** Romans 2:21 ESV

I. 9th Commandment

- (1) “And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Deuteronomy 5:20 ESV
- (2) For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, ***false witness***, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.” Matthew 15:19-20 ESV
- (3) Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25 ESV
 - (a) Not a liar? Not giving false witness?
 - (b) Without a shadow of doubt, this commandment has to be the one broken most on a daily basis. Responding without thinking of the answer and telling a so-called “white lie” counts!
- 1. All Your Commandments are faithful; they persecute me with ***lying***; help me. Psalm 119:86 ESV

2. I hate and despise *lying*; but I love Your Law Psalm 119:163 ESV
3. He who hides hatred with *lying lips*, and he who speaks a slander, is a fool. Proverbs 10:18 ESV
4. Therefore *putting away lying*, let each man speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Ephesians 4:25 ESV

J. 10th Commandment

- (1) “And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.” Deuteronomy 5:21 ESV
- (2) What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. Romans 7:7-8 ESV
- (a) The Apostle Paul realized the importance of the commandments by what they revealed.

- (b) When the Apostle Paul said in Romans 7 “**sin... produced in me all kinds of covetousness**”. It is better explained by saying, “the commandment, “revealed” in me all kinds of covetousness.”
- (c) The job of each and every commandment is to reveal our capacity to do wrong; they don’t make us do wrong, they simply reveal our propensity to do wrong. The commandment to not covet does not make us covetous; it simply reveals our capacity to behave that way because of our humanity.
1. yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the **covetous**, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then you must go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to associate intimately, if any man called a brother and is either a fornicator, or **covetous**, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **with such a one not to eat.** 1
Corinthians 5:10-11 ESV
 2. For you know this, that no fornicator, or unclean person, or **covetous one (who is an idolater)**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
Ephesians 5:5 ESV

EVIDENTLY CLEAR

2. The purpose of visiting the Ten Commandments...

A. The True Battle

- (1) The purpose of visiting and reading over the ten commandments is not to point out individual shortcomings in your daily walk with Y'Shua. It is however to create an understanding that our ultimate goal as believers is to recognize the immaterial battle we are fighting and should be winning. It can only be ultimately won by getting rid of material hindrances through living a surrendered and Torah obedient life.
- (2) In this Torah Portion, Moses wrote "And Jehovah spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. ***You heard the voice of the words, but saw no likeness, only a voice.***" If that is not a representation of the immaterial challenge we face, I do not know what is!
- (3) What is evidently clear is that Yahweh is not merely prescribing to His children a list of "do and don't do". He is charging them with the task of living out their human experience in a God-ordained fashion, totally different from all other people at that time and at any other, living outside of Yahweh's precepts.

- (4) How do we know that? Because Moses was told, “Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as Jehovah my God commanded me, so that you should do so in the land where you go to possess it. And you shall keep and do them, ***for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations***, which shall hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For who is a great nation whose God is coming near to them, as Jehovah our God is, in all our calling on Him? And who is a great nation whose statutes and judgments are so righteous as all this Law which I set before you today? Only take heed to yourself and keep your soul carefully, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. But teach them to your sons, and your sons' sons.” Deuteronomy 4:5-9 ESV
- (5) The next time you come across someone wondering who the ten commandments are for, your answer should be evidently clear!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **The First Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:7; Exodus 20:1-17)

- A. Write out the commandment in your own handwriting.
- B. Then using whatever method you are journaling, describe what it means in your own words. Include why it is important in today's world.
- C. Recall a time when you struggled to obey the commandment, and one time when you had victory.
- D. Consider an instance when you witnessed someone else transgress this commandment and describe the consequences.
- E. How might you help others understand the importance of this commandment.
- F. Repeat these steps for each commandment.

2. **The Second Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:8-10)

3. **The Third Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:11)

4. **The Fourth Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

5. **The Fifth Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:16)

6. **The Sixth Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:17)

7. **The Seventh Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:18)

8. **The Eighth Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:19)

9. **The Ninth Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:20)

10. **The Tenth Commandment** (Deuteronomy 5:21)